



# STEWARDSHIP OF THE EDWARDS AQUIFER

## What is the Edwards Aquifer?

**Aquifer:** an underground area that holds enough water to provide a usable supply.



Source: San Antonio Report

While other aquifers in Texas are made up of sand and gravel, the Edwards Aquifer is a **karst aquifer**, composed of porous limestone formations that serve as conduits for water as it travels underground. (*Edwards Aquifer Authority*)

As shown in the graphic to the right, the Edwards Aquifer region encompasses much of South Central Texas. Portions of the City of West Lake Hills lie within the Edwards Aquifer Contributing and Recharge Zones.

In the **Contributing Zone**, water soaks into the water table, then returns to the surface as spring-fed streams that flow downhill to the Recharge Zone and enter the aquifer.

In the **Recharge Zone**, limestone features like crevices and caves that allow groundwater to enter the aquifer.

*"The Edwards Aquifer is one of the most valuable resources in the central Texas area.*

*This aquifer provides water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses as well as sustaining a number of rare and endangered species.*

*To preserve these beneficial uses, Texans must protect water quality in this aquifer from degradation resulting from human activities."*

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), RG-348

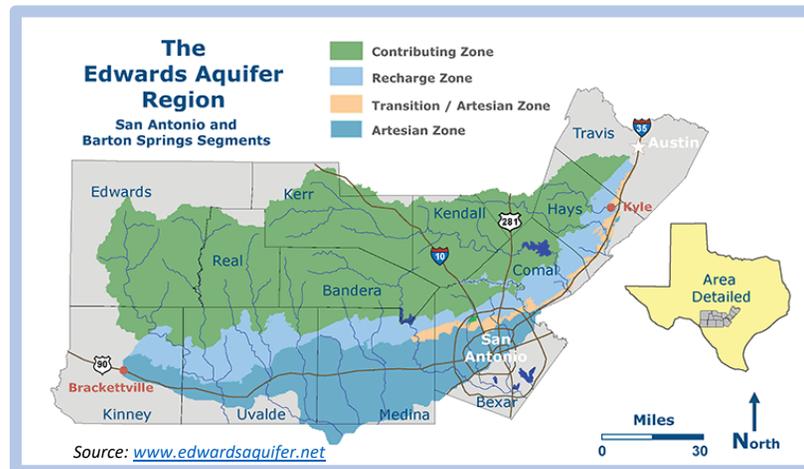
## How does this affect me?

In most places, it takes time for stormwater to travel over land and filter through soil to reach the rivers and lakes that supply drinking water to residents. In the Edwards Aquifer region, recharge features provide a direct link between groundwater and our underground water supply. This means that stormwater pollution directly affects the quality of our drinking water.

As a result, TCEQ has implemented extra water quality requirements to protect the aquifer. Examples include water quality treatments like rain gardens and water quality ponds, as well as erosion and sedimentation controls at construction sites.



Source: San Antonio Report



## Tell me more!

For more information about the Edwards Aquifer, visit <https://www.edwardsaquifer.org/>

For more information about how the City of West Lake Hills is working to protect the quality of our stormwater, visit: <https://www.westlakehills.org/228/Stormwater-Pollution-Education-and-Aware>

